**CHAPTER 6: ESSAY ASSESSMENT STUDY GUIDE**

**Learning Targets:**

1. Students will begin to understand how to use Essay assessments (concept)
2. Students will be comfortable using this form of assessment in their lesson plans (disposition)

**FOCUS QUESTIONS, by section:**

**Subjective Judgment**

1. How does essay assessment differ from Selective Response assessment?
2. For which areas can essay assessment work well?

**Assessment Quality**

1. What is the greatest criticism of essay assessments?
2. Is an essay assessment the proper form of assessment for all lessons? All teachers? All students?

**Matching Method to Target**

1. What are the primary reasons to use essay assessments?
2. How can essay assessments work in different content areas?

**Developing Assessments**

1. What are three the things that a good essay question should do?
2. What five things should you consider when designing essays?

**Barriers to Assess**

1. What are the barriers that hinder accurate assessments of essays from:
   1. The teacher’s perspective?
   2. The student’s perspective?
   3. Ideal essay prompt, rubric

**Student Involvement**

1. What are the benefits of engaging students as partners in assessment?
2. When involving students, what are two ways of integrating assessment with instruction?

**Examples of successful essay questions (‘exercises’):**

Earth Science:

During our unit, we have studied the characteristics and geological processes that form different types of rock. Please compare and contrast intrusive and extrusive rocks. Include at least one characteristic that they have in common, at least three areas in which they differ, and two specific examples of each. Consider our recent trip to Mt. St. Helens and Granite Falls.

Geometry:

As we have seen in our lessons, the ‘Golden Ratio’ is an integral part of the world around us. In this essay please define the proportion in mathematical terms. Also, describe where the proportion is found in nature, how it has been used by artists (specifically in the Renaissance), and common contemporary items or products where the Golden ratio is found (give at least 2 examples of each). In planning your response, consider marine biology, the work of Leonardo da Vinci, and contemporary marketing campaigns.

History:

In class, we have explored the long-term and immediate causes of the U.S. Civil War. In this essay, please analyze the political, economic, and social aspects that led to the war. Consider the role of Western Expansion, Abolitionism, and the election of 1860.

**Sample Rubric:**

